May 13

Ezekiel 37:1-14

“Up, Out of Graves, & Into Your Own Land”

1 The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out **in the spirit** of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones, 2 And caused me to pass by them round about:

and, behold, there were very
many in the open valley;
and, lo, they were very dry.
3 And he said unto me, Son
of man, can these bones
live? And I answered, O Lord
GOD, thou knowest. 4 Again
he said unto me, Prophesy
upon these bones, and say
unto them, O ye dry bones,
hear the word of the LORD.
5 Thus saith the Lord GOD
unto these bones; Behold,
I will cause breath to enter
into you, and ye shall live:
6 And I will lay sinews upon
you, and will bring up flesh

upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the LORD. 7 So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone. 8 And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them. 9 Then said he unto me, Prophesy unto the wind,

prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.
10 So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army. 11 Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are

cut off for our parts.
12 Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. 13 And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves, 14 And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye

know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the LORD.

Some have interpreted this to mean physically dead people were or will be massively revived by God to physically live again. However, “graves” (verses 12 and 13) *may* be seen as spiritual deadness—a psychological burial.

This may speak of mental bondage or any deep depression or an emptiness of the soul. Verse 9 says these people had been “slain”. They had been killed. As the Saints of old felt *killed*, *[“…for thy sake are we killed all the day long… counted as sheep for the slaughter.” (Psalm 44:22)]*, so did the Faithful of Ezekiel’s time.

Likewise, Believers of this time may have similar situations and comparable responses.

Though in reference to a specific time, and even IF this did or will one day actually occur in the physical realm, God presently wants his people, “the whole house

of Israel”, to know something important from this. God does not ask his people to deny their difficult conditions. Neither is God shaming his people for their feelings. This passage was also not a motivational speech about pulling yourselves up “by your boot straps”, not allowing anyone to “keep you

down”, or any brand of “name-and-claim”.

God acknowledged that a deadness of spirit existed. He recognized that a hopelessness prevailed among his people. A spiritual stagnation and lifelessness was there.

God’s message was that he was aware of

the situation and that he was capable of causing a real come-up. God wanted the people to know he could cause them to rise up and out of that dead place, the grave, and that he could give them the ability to live and to enter their “own land”.

One understanding modern-day Believers

may glean from this Old Testament passage is that we, too, may experience those very down feelings. God knows about it.

God is able to draw us up and out of our emotional “graves” and renew our souls that we may divinely live again. We don’t have to feel dry—down to our very

bones. We don't have to exist as if all hope is lost. We don't have to feel cut off from what is rightfully due us (our part). Through God's indwelling spirit, we can be brought into our own land—the place we should be; where we belong.

That land may be in reference to NOW as well

as to LATER. Now, or while still on earth, our "own land" can be seen as peace of mind even as we may endure harsh or unpleasant circumstances. This would be the "land", or cerebral state that brings about the *peace that passes all understanding* (Philippians 4:7)— the calm that only a

truly surrendered-to-God and revived Believer may experience.

As for later, the “land” may be thought of as heaven, paradise, eternity, or whatever term we may use to describe a pleasant after-life. Either way, we won’t always feel as we’re buried. Those who are true Believers are set

to be up and out of any type of grave and into our own rightful place.